

REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action, the Examiner:

- rejects claims 1, 6, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over ERICKSON et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,882,765; hereinafter ERICKSON), WALTERS et al. (U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0176131; hereinafter WALTERS), and WING SO (U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0109879); and
- indicates the allowability of claim 11.

Applicant traverses the rejection.

By way of this amendment, Applicant cancels claims 1, 6, 15, and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer, amends claim 11 to improve form, and adds new claims 22-24. No new matter is added. Claims 11 and 21-24 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claim 11 is allowed. Applicant has herein amended claim 11 to correct minor grammatical matters.

Applicant submits that new independent claims 21 and 22 recites features similar to features recited by claim 11. Therefore, Applicant submits that new claims 21 and 22 are also allowable over the applied references. New claims 23 and 24 depend from claim 22. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 23 and 24 are allowable over the applied references.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on ERICKSON, WALTERS, and
WING SO**

Claims 1, 6, 15, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over ERICKSON, WALTERS, and WING SO. Without acquiescing in the

rejections of these claims, but merely to expedite prosecution, Applicant cancels claims 1, 6, 15, and 16. Therefore, this rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicant's representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to expedite prosecution of this application.

As Applicant's remarks with respect to the Examiner's rejections are sufficient to overcome these rejections, Applicant's silence as to assertions by the Examiner in the Office Action or certain requirements that may be applicable to such assertions (e.g., whether a reference constitutes prior art, reasons to modify a reference and/or to combine references, assertions as to dependent claims, assertions regarding Official Notice, etc.) is not a concession by Applicant that such assertions are accurate or such requirements have been met, and Applicant reserves the right to analyze and dispute such assertions/requirements in the future.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with

the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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